

# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 5 August 2008



- KTVU 2 San Francisco reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating two firebombings that targeted University of California, Santa Cruz, scientists who experiment on animals. Authorities were treating the attacks as "domestic terrorism." (See item 33)
- According to the Dallas Morning News, suburban sprawl has encroached on hundreds of dams in Texas that were once in remote locations. Many dams classified decades ago as "low hazard" are now integrated into the suburban landscape. (See item 46)

#### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste;

**Defense Industrial Base; Dams** 

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping;

Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities

Sustenance and Health: <u>Agriculture and Food</u>; <u>Water</u>; <u>Public Health and Healthcare</u>

Federal and State: Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and

**Icons** 

### **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,

Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – [http://www.esisac.com]

1. August 4, Reuters – (Louisiana; Texas) Storm Edouard shuts refinery, hits shipping. Tropical Storm Edouard forced shut a huge offshore oil port, a refinery, some oil production, and disrupted shipping as the storm raced toward the Texas-Louisiana coast on Monday. Energy companies evacuated staff from offshore platforms due to Edouard, the second named storm of the season to threaten oil operations in the Gulf of Mexico. Apache shut 8,600 barrels per day of oil output and 130 million cubic feet per day of natural gas production after evacuating 110 personnel from facilities off Louisiana. Chevron Corp. and Shell Oil said they were evacuating some workers from platforms as a safety precaution but added production of oil and natural gas was not affected. Marathon shut its Texas City, Texas, refinery and Valero Energy Corp. warned its plants

in the region could be affected after the storm halted inbound traffic to the Houston Ship Channel and the Sabine Pass ship channel. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Edouard had about a 20 percent chance of becoming a hurricane by the time it reaches land. The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port temporarily suspended offloading oil tankers in the Gulf of Mexico due to high waves and winds. The port's onshore storage continued to supply refiners with crude on-hand, however, a spokeswoman said. Source:

http://www.reuters.com/article/CHMMFG/idUSN0436576220080804?pageNumber=2& virtualBrandChannel=0

- 2. August 4, Associated Press (Texas) Refinery fire injures four in Houston. Four workers at a Houston refinery were injured when a tank of sulfur caught fire and released fumes. The leak was quickly contained Monday morning at the Valero Houston Refinery. Nearby residents were told they could go to a shelter to wait out the fumes. A Valero Energy Corp. spokesman says four workers were taken to a hospital for evaluation. The cause of the fire was not immediately determined. Source: http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/252/story/392035.html
- 3. August 4, Reuters (Delaware) Valero: gasoline leak near Del. City refinery FCC. Valero Energy Corp. reported a valve leak near the fluid catalytic cracker unit at its Delaware City refinery, according to a filing with state environmental regulators. It said a total of 150 gallons of the fuel had leaked. Company officials could not be reached immediately for comment on whether the snag, which occurred on Saturday, had any impact on the gasoline-making catalytic cracker operations.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN0446666120080804

- 4. August 1, Houston Chronicle (Kansas; Texas) Sounding alarm when pipelines are **threatened.** A technology used to detect the location of sniper fire in war zones is helping prevent damage to natural gas pipelines. The system, adapted by General Electric's (GE) oil and gas pipeline services business from a French defense firm, has been installed on two Houston-area pipelines. By listening to sound waves traveling through the natural gas in the equipped pipelines, operators in a remote control room can detect and pinpoint to within a few feet the location of an object striking a pipeline, such as a construction backhoe. In some cases, the system can detect if digging is happening in a pipeline right-of-way, even if machinery has not come in contact with the pipe. A warning goes to the pipeline operator immediately, letting the operator intervene before the pipeline is breached or respond to a rupture more quickly. The vice president of operations services for El Paso's pipeline business said the ThreatScan system GE installed on its pipeline near Katy should help protect both the pipeline and its neighbors. The detection system was first installed in the U.S. last year on a section of the Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline near Wichita, Kansas. In Texas, it has been installed in a section of Spectra Energy pipeline near Mont Belvieu and on a Transwestern pipeline in Amarillo, in addition to the northwest Houston site. Source: http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/biz/5920646.html
- 5. August 1, Boston Globe (Massachusetts) Anatomy of a disaster. For ten years,

officials at the Salem Harbor Power Station failed to carry out a crucial annual inspection, an oversight that has been linked to a boiler explosion that killed three employees last year, state officials said yesterday. A report released Thursday by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) cited extensive corrosion of tubes near an area of the boiler known as the dead air space – space within the boiler where there is no combustion. The law requires a thorough external and internal inspection of the boiler, including the dead air space, according to the report. "This dead air space had not been entered for 10 years, at least," said the commissioner of DPS. Dominion Energy New England officials said they "strongly disagree" with the report's findings and are considering their response. State officials said they would pursue disciplinary action against the engineer in charge of the boiler and the inspector responsible for annual inspections. The DPS commissioner said state inspections of 33 other facilities with similar coal-fired boilers and dead spaces were in compliance with the law.

Source: http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/08/01/anatomy of a disaster/

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### **Chemical Industry Sector**

Nothing to report

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### Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

- 6. August 4, Republican Eagle (Minnesota) Prairie Island nuclear plant returns to full power. Operators at Prairie Island Nuclear Plant successfully reduced levels of hydrazine in the non-nuclear side of the plant and returned Unit 1 to full power Sunday. Plant operators had declared a notification of unusual event (NUE) at 3:52 a.m. Sunday when elevated levels of hydrazine, an ammonia-like chemical, were detected in the turbine building as Unit 1 was being returned to service. They exited the NUE at 10:20 p.m. While the levels of hydrazine detected were higher than normal, the concentrations were less than levels that are considered dangerous to life and health. Ventilation in the affected part of the plant was increased to dissipate the chemical. No detectable hydrazine was found outside the plant. Unit 1 had shut down at 8:17 a.m. Thursday when a component of the unit's control circuitry failed as routine testing was being performed on a redundant circuit. Repairs were made and operators commenced reactor startup Saturday afternoon. There were no injuries and no radiological release as the result of the shutdown or of the hydrazine detection.
  - Source: <a href="http://www.republican-eagle.com/articles/index.cfm?id=52211&section=News">http://www.republican-eagle.com/articles/index.cfm?id=52211&section=News</a>
- 7. August 3, Professional Reactor Operator Society (New York) Nine Mile Point nuclear station NRC integrated inspection report. The vice president of the Nine Mile Point nuclear power plant received a letter dated July 25, 2008, that documented three self-revealing findings and two U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)-identified findings. Four of the findings were determined to involve violations of NRC requirements. A non-cited violation was identified by the inspectors for a recurring trend

of operations personnel being required to stand 24 hour shifts in order to ensure adequate shift coverage. There were eight occurrences between May 2007 and May 2008. Several of these overtime deviations were not properly authorized or documented in accordance with station procedures. An NRC-identified non-cited violation was identified for not properly implementing and maintaining procedures for controlling plant staff work hours of personnel performing safety-related activities. Specifically, over 400 overtime deviations were approved between July 2007 and April 2008 for operations personnel to work greater than procedurally established work hour limits for routine outage support activities during outages and other reasons not permitted by TS. Source: <a href="http://www.nucpros.com/?q=node/4879">http://www.nucpros.com/?q=node/4879</a>

8. August 3, Professional Reactor Operator Society – (North Carolina) Brunswick Steam Electric Plant – NRC integrated inspection. The Brunswick nuclear power plant's vice president received a letter from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) summarizing the integrated inspection. Two self-revealing findings and one NRC-identified finding of very low safety significance (green) were identified. Two of the findings were determined to involve violations of NRC requirements. Self-revealing green non-cited violations were identified for an inadequate procedure used to specify configuration controls during a maintenance activity, and for an inadequate procedure used for the calibration of the conventional service water pump logic relays in September 2007. The inspectors identified a green finding for failure to properly evaluate the potential causes of increased tritium concentrations in groundwater samples. The licensee failed to properly evaluate and initiate actions to address increasing concentrations reported from 2003 through 2007.

Source: <a href="http://www.nucpros.com/?q=node/4876">http://www.nucpros.com/?q=node/4876</a>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. August 1, Jane's Information Group – (National) US Army sees urgent need for 'longer-range' infantry weapon. The U.S. Army is requesting more funds to buy modified M14 rifles to meet an urgent operational need. According to a Department of Defense reprogramming request, units in theater want an infantry weapon that can engage targets at longer ranges than the standard 5.56 x 45 mm Colt M4 carbine and M16 rifle. "Without this additional funding, units in the fight will not receive the long-range engagement capability they urgently need to engage improvised explosive device teams at long range and immediately respond to attacks from rocket-propelled grenades and crew-served weapon emplacements outside the range of the M4/M16 rifle," the request states. "The infantry rifle squad does not have an integrated 800 m weapon." Funding will pay for bipods, scopes, and stocks to modify the M14 rifles, which fire the more powerful NATO 7.62 x 51 mm rifle round. The M14 was phased out of service in the mid-1960s as a standard-issue rifle, but the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have seen a limited return of the M14 as a designated marksman rifle.

Source: http://www.janes.com/news/defence/land/jdw/jdw080801\_1\_n.shtml

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. August 4, USA Today – (National) Foreclosure rescue scams multiply. States and the federal government are using new laws and lawsuits to fend off a wave of scams in which con artists prey on homeowners facing foreclosure. The emerging foreclosure rescue scams, in which swindlers pledge to save the owner's house, are likely to worsen. says the FBI's chief of financial crimes. "The scope is probably going to be potentially as large as the mortgage fraud problem itself," she says. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) filed three major foreclosure rescue cases this year, after filing none last year, says the FTC regional director, who leads the agency's foreclosure rescue effort. One case involved thousands of victims and property worth millions of dollars, he says. Some scammers promise to negotiate with a lender for a fee, then just take the money and run, he says. In other cases, homeowners agree to pay rent to live in the house but sign title to a rescue company that is supposed to pay the mortgage. Instead, the company sells the house, taking whatever equity is left. Scammers often hide a deedtransfer clause in refinancing documents so that homeowners do not realize they have signed over title to their house, says the official. "These are relatively new scams that are growing and becoming an increasing problem," says the director of Idaho's Department of Finance. At least 14 states have passed new protections for distressed homeowners this year.

Source: <a href="http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-08-04-foreclosure-scams\_N.htm">http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-08-04-foreclosure-scams\_N.htm</a>

11. August 2, Los Angeles Times – (National) Countrywide insider stole mortgage applicants' data, FBI says. The FBI on Friday arrested a former Countrywide Financial Corp. employee and another man in an alleged scheme to steal and sell sensitive personal information, including Social Security numbers, of as many as 2 million mortgage applicants. The breach in security, which occurred over a two-year period through July, was one of the largest in years, experts said. In an affidavit filed in federal court, the FBI said one of the suspects had voluntarily described the scheme. He said he would charge \$400 or \$500 for batches of thousands of "leads" – personal and account information that presumably would help outside loan agents solicit new mortgages from the Countrywide applicants, some of whom had been denied loans by the Calabasas company. Authorities said they did not know whether any of the information had been used for outright fraud, such as identity theft. The fraudster would copy information on about 20,000 customers at a time on Sunday nights by using a Full Spectrum computer that did not have the same security features that other machines in the office had, according to the affidavit by an FBI special agent. At that rate, the U.S. attorney's office said, the man would have compromised up to 2 million customer profiles for about 2.5 cents each – an astonishingly small amount considering the importance of the material. Mortgage leads are among the most expensive for sale because of the potential payoffs to intermediaries when loans are made.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-arrest2-2008aug02,0,7330731.story

12. August 2, Los Angeles Times – (National, International) **Ticket scam hits Olympics.** Olympic officials have turned to the federal courts in a bid to shut down two online companies suspected of stealing money, credit card information and passport numbers

from hundreds of people who thought they were buying scarce tickets to prime events in Beijing. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) won a restraining order July 23 in federal court that shut down one of the websites, www.beijing-tickets2008.com. On Monday, the USOC and IOC plan to ask a federal judge in San Francisco for an order to shut down www.beijingticketing.com, which remained active Friday. Both companies appeared to have been operating several related websites promising to deliver hard-to-find Olympics tickets. The websites lured people in large part by their extensive – and allegedly illegal – use of logos that look very similar to the official Olympic ones. The websites' names also helped them appear atop search engine results. The sites said they could not deliver tickets until late in July, so many consumers did not realize that they had been taken until it was too late. While consumers who did business with the websites welcomed the court action, some questioned why it took officials so long to act. Officials at the USOC and IOC say that they are unable to provide tickets or refunds for consumers who have been duped. Olympic officials said consumers were told all along to deal only with an authorized ticket seller, New Jersey-based CoSport. Demand proved so strong that CoSport used a lottery to award tickets and quickly sold out.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-sp-olytickets2-2008aug02,0,221914.story

13. August 1, Reuters – (National) New York threatens fraud charges against Citigroup. The office New York Attorney General said on Friday it planned to bring legal action against Citigroup Inc, accusing the bank of fraudulently selling auction-rate securities and destroying documents that had been subpoenaed by the state. In a letter of intent obtained by Reuters, the state said its five-month probe into auction-rate markets revealed the bank falsely assured customers that these securities were as liquid as cash. The securities have been difficult to sell since credit markets tightened earlier this year. The state wants Citigroup to buy back these securities at par value. A Citigroup spokeswoman declined comment.

Source: <a href="http://uk.reuters.com/article/marketsNewsUS/idUKWEN719120080801">http://uk.reuters.com/article/marketsNewsUS/idUKWEN719120080801</a>

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### **Transportation Sector**

14. August 3, Tyler Morning Telegraph – (National) Flight Risk? Local, federal authorities ponder problem of unlicensed pilots. Congressional leaders told the Tyler Courier-Times-Telegraph Friday afternoon they are now requesting briefings and demanding answers from several federal agencies regarding general aviation in America. The investigation into the crash of a Cessna 172 last weekend in the Athens area raised the questions when the newspaper learned the pilot does not hold any type of pilot certification, though he owns an airplane. A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman said, "Not everyone is checked, we are not going into details about ramp checks where someone may appear at a person trying to fly's elbow asking for a license. We can't go into how or when ramp checks are performed because of security issues." When asked about checks at a small East Texas airport, an official said he had no clue if the pilots flying in and out of his airport were certified. The FAA spokesman admitted that out of the thousands of flights each day there are several cases each week where

someone is caught flying without the proper certification. He also said there are instances where planes are stolen or a mechanic working on a plane decides to take it for a spin even though the mechanic is not a licensed pilot. However, airport official after airport official in the region told the newspaper it is not their job to ask questions about anyone's certification, where they are going or any other questions and they reiterated the FAA's statement that only pilots flying IFR were required to file flight plans. The official said the civil penalty against those piloting aircraft without a license can range up to \$1,100 per violation and, as with a driving violation, other penalties may be added (such as flying without a current medical, operating an unsafe aircraft, violating restricted airspace, runway incursion, etc.).

Source: http://www.tylerpaper.com/article/20080803/NEWS08/808030343

15. August 3, Associated Press – (International) Qantas jet makes emergency landing in Sydney. Australia's aviation agency has launched a review of Qantas Airways' safety standards after the airline had its third high-profile emergency landing in eight days. The review was announced after an incident involving a Manila-bound Boeing 767 that was seen leaking hydraulic fluid Saturday after take-off. The jetliner with 200 passengers aboard had to return to Sydney airport. A Civil Aviation Safety Authority spokesman said there was "no evidence to suggest" any problems with Qantas, but it was "prudent and wise" to investigate the matter.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25998867/

16. August 3, KUSA 9 Denver – (Kansas) Denver-bound flight makes emergency landing. A United Airlines flight bound for Denver had to make an emergency landing Sunday night after the aircraft experienced engine problems. Officials say the flight took off from Kansas City Sunday, but was forced to turn back. Witnesses say they saw flames shooting from one of the Boeing 737's engines. The jet is a twin-engine aircraft, with both engines hanging below the wings. Crews are inspecting the plane to determine what went wrong.

Source: http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=97022&catid=188

17. August 3, Xinhua – (International) Faulty landing gear forces UA flight back to Beijing airport shortly after take-of. A United Airlines flight bound for San Francisco returned to Beijing Capital Airport after hovering about two hours in the sky, due to landing gear problem. The cabin crew found the problem about one hour after the take-off and soon informed the 281 passengers on board the Boeing 777-200 plane. No casualties were reported.

Source: <a href="http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-08/03/content\_8934495.htm">http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-08/03/content\_8934495.htm</a>

18. August 3, Associated Press – (California) LAX to be test site for shoe-scanning machines. Los Angeles International Airport soon will test a pair of machines that let passengers keep their shoes on at security checkpoints. The machines resemble a large turnstile and will scan shoes for explosives as air travelers pass through them. A spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration says data collected will help determine whether the scanners could be used at airports nationwide. An aviation consultant says the results were inconsistent when similar shoe-scanning machines were

tested last summer at Orlando International Airport.

Source: <a href="http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2008-08-03-show-lax\_N.htm">http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2008-08-03-show-lax\_N.htm</a>

19. August 2, KNBC 4 Los Angeles – (California) Suspicious package prompts brief LAX terminal evacuation. One of the busiest terminals at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) was briefly evacuated Saturday, forcing hundreds of passengers to line up to pass through security checkpoints a second time. LAX Police called the alert to check out a suspicious parcel, which turned out to be no threat, officials said. Terminal One, which serves Southwest Airlines and US Airways, was emptied of passengers and employees at about 7:40 a.m., according to the LAX traffic information radio service AM 530. Traffic on the upper deck of the airport's access road was severely backed up, as several lanes were closed to make way for hundreds of evacuees, delaying persons heading to other LAX terminals. Lanes were reopened at 8:50 a.m., but heavy traffic lingered, according to the LAX traffic information radio service.

Source: http://www.knbc.com/news/17072988/detail.html

20. August 2, Baltimore Sun – (California) Port security battle rages. The Department of Homeland Security is attempting to bypass a congressional mandate that equipment bought for port security with federal grants be purchased from American companies, according to members of Congress and documents obtained by the Sun. The move, which DHS officials said does not violate Congress' instructions, immediately drew sharp criticism from organized labor groups and "Buy American" sympathizers on Capitol Hill, who in recent years have repeatedly instructed procurement authorities to spend billions in federal funds on American-made goods. Congress has kept a watchful eye on such funding and business activities since 2006, when a Dubai-based company attempted to take over port operations in Baltimore and other U.S. cities. The department, this year more than tripled its federal funding to the Baltimore port compared to last year, issuing more than \$6.6 million to help strengthen protections against potential terrorist attacks and beef up security measures.

Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nation/bal-te.port02aug02,0,1070429.story

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

21. August 3, Washington Post – (District of Columbia) Post-anthrax, mail sent around inconvenience. After the October 2001 anthrax attacks, Washington's mail became suspect. Suddenly, mail sorters were wearing ill-fitting masks and powder-free vinyl gloves. Companies added expensive new ventilation systems and washed down mailroom counters with bleach. More than \$74 million was spent to zap the District's federal mail with high-energy electron beams and X-rays to kill off dangers. But in the years since two D.C. postal workers died after coming into contact with mail destined for two senators, the workplace has slid back into a more mundane routine filled with old habits, new evasions, and, for many, manageable inconveniences. Workers in a Senate mailroom wear gloves, but not because of anthrax. They do not like the feeling of mail made flaky by being irradiated at 150 degrees. And the massive effort to kill pathogens on federal mail sent to Washington has dropped by more than 50 percent

since its peak, according to a government report released last week. One reason: More people are using e-mail. But some government agencies also have changed their addresses to dodge the slower system, according to the Government Accountability Office. The Postal Service only treats mail destined for certain zip codes. Officials also rely on FedEx, which has different precautions.

Source: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/02/AR2008080201415.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/02/AR2008080201415.html</a>

22. August 2, Associated Press – (National) Anthrax attacks changed mail handling. The

way the post office and many government agencies handle the mail has undergone major changes in recent years. The bioterrorism attacks of 2001 forced the closing of two major mail processing plants and contaminated 21 other postal facilities. The Postal Service also had to deal with more than 17,000 hoaxes that disrupted operations nationwide. Today, more than 1,000 biological detectors are sniffing mail for dangerous contamination at postal centers and other government offices across the country. Neighborhood boxes to send mail have become scarcer. More than a million containers of mail to Congress, the White House, and other federal agencies have been irradiated to kill potential contamination at a cost of \$74.7 million so far. Postal workers now are trained to look for suspicious packages and call in postal inspectors if they detect something unusual. Such is the worry about anthrax that incidents have disrupted the nation's post offices tens of thousands of times since 2001. And even when they turn out to be false alarms, they take a toll on nerves and work time and must be taken seriously. When workers see something on a machine, the floor, a case, leaking out of an envelope or box, they have been instructed to consider it dangerous. The area is sealed off and local hazardous materials teams and the Postal Inspection Service are called in. Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hSARqk5VTPulPLzwNV4EfATJHP7gD92A1QU00

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

23. August 4, Associated Press – (California) Slaughter begins in Calif dairy herd exposed to TB. More than 4,800 dairy cows at risk of carrying tuberculosis (TB) are being slaughtered this week in central California, where nearly 16,000 cattle in the country's largest milk-producing region have been quarantined, federal officials said. The undersecretary of agriculture met privately with local dairy operators Tuesday along with the state veterinarian and other industry officials monitoring three new cases of TB recently discovered in Fresno County dairies. Federal and state agriculture officials were still tightlipped about the identities and locations of the three dairies where cows tested positive for the disease, which can be transmitted to humans and other mammals through the air or through drinking unpasteurized milk from an infected cow. The discovery of the highly contagious respiratory disease already has prompted changes in interstate shipping regulations. Pasteurization kills the TB bacteria, but trade organizations still worry about the possible financial impact on California's \$7.3 billion dairy industry.

Source: http://www.timesrepublican.com/page/content.detail/id/508935.html?nav=5001

24. August 3, Sebring News Sun – (Florida) Farmers concerned over food safety and fair competition. The recent tomato scare, brought about during an outbreak of salmonella poisoning cost the industry nationally, \$300 to \$400 million the growers said. Florida was especially hard hit because the outbreak timed with the harvest. Most American farms have put safety measures into place, including sophisticated tracking systems should problems develop. However, those systems were not used by the regulatory agencies to discover the culprit in the salmonella case. Instead, a blanket warning was issued affecting every tomato grower in the country. After 2001, the department of Homeland Security took over and inspections were more geared to look for terrorists or deadly materials. Imported produce from overseas, where regulations are often lax or do not exist at all, create an unfair advantage at the market place, and more importantly puts the consumer at risk.

Source: http://www.newssun.com/0803-ct-tomatoes

25. August 2, Associated Press – (National) Cancer chemicals to be reduced in chips, fries. Four food manufacturers agreed to reduce levels of a cancer-causing chemical in their potato chips and french fries under a settlement announced Friday by the state attorney general's office. California sued H.J. Heinz Co., Frito-Lay, Kettle Foods Inc., and Lance Inc. in 2005, alleging they violated a state requirement that companies post warning labels on products with carcinogens. The companies avoided trial by agreeing to pay a combined three million dollars in fines and reduce the levels of acrylamide in their products over three years, officials said. Acrylamide forms naturally when starchy foods are baked or fried. Studies have shown the chemical, which also has industrial uses, causes cancer in lab animals and nerve damage to workers who are exposed to high levels. The Food and Drug Administration is researching whether acrylamide in food poses a health risk.

Source: <a href="http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25984192/">http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25984192/</a>

26. August 2, San Francisco Chronicle – (National) U.S. probe into salmonella outbreak criticized. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) refused to exonerate tomatoes, one of the most common foods in the U.S. diet, but the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said tomatoes now are safe to eat. The exact source of the outbreak is still unclear. The outbreak has slowed, but the investigation continues, focusing now on serrano and jalapeno peppers from two widely separated farms in Mexico. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for 20 percent of the food supply, mainly meat and poultry, but has many more investigators than the FDA, which oversees 80 percent of the food supply. The FDA relies mainly on border inspections to prevent contaminated imports, but inspects just one percent of imports and conducts analyses on just 0.2 percent, according to congressional testimony. The FDA associate commissioner for foods faulted poor industry record-keeping for slowing the agency's ability to trace back the source of the contamination.

Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/02/MN55123I43.DTL

27. August 1, Fresno Bee – (National) Compounds add spice to research on food safety.

Herbs and spices such as oregano, thyme, cinnamon, and clove do more than add pleasing flavors and aromas to familiar foods. According to a chemist at the Agricultural Research Service, the oils from these plants, or compounds extracted from those oils, are strong enough to help quell such foodborne pathogens as E. coli O157:H7.

Source: http://www.fresnobee.com/866/story/770336.html

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#### **Water Sector**

28. August 4, Bradenton Herald – (Florida) Tallevast water treatment leaks. Polluted water in a treatment system leaked and filled secondary containment before residents of the beleaguered neighborhood said they heard and saw it pouring over the top onto the ground Sunday. When reported to emergency services at about 1:30 p.m., fire and environmental personnel rushed to the site at the former beryllium plant, turned off the treatment system, and sucked up 6,000 gallons of water behind a high metal containment wall for transport to a state disposal facility. The beryllium plant is the source of a leak of toxic chemicals that has spread underground over 200 acres. A spokeswoman for Lockheed Martin Corp., which is responsible for the cleanup of the underground plume, said late Sunday "there was a leak in the groundwater treatment plant," but that no toxic water had escaped outside containment. Two community leaders said they had photographs to prove the water had escaped and, as they stood about ten feet from the containment wall, the weight of the water behind it bowed the wall out and worried them that it might give way and spill onto the grounds of the Tallevast Community Center adjacent to the treatment site. As part of the initial cleanup, Lockheed is pumping contaminated groundwater through a treatment system and then discharging the treated water into the county sewer system.

Source: http://www.bradenton.com/news/local/story/781692.html

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### **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

29. August 4, Cape Cod Times – (Massachusetts) Losses pile up at state's hospitals. Cape Cod Healthcare incurred a \$25 million operating deficit through June. Nearly 20 percent of Massachusetts hospitals had a deficit in their operating budget at the close of the 2007 fiscal year last fall. By early 2008, the number of hospitals that ran operating deficits had skyrocketed to 51 percent, according to reports filed with the state Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. The number of hospitals with overall net losses, which includes their investment portfolio, reached 38 percent. Cape Cod Healthcare, which operates Cape Cod Hospital and Falmouth Hospital, had a net loss of \$15 million through June. In addition to the two hospitals, Cape Cod Healthcare operates a homehealth care agency, rehabilitation and skilled nursing facilities, and other programs. It is the Cape's largest employer with 4,600 full- and part-time workers. Additionally, Jordan Hospital in Plymouth announced this spring that it had incurred a \$2.3 million operating deficit. The hospital closed a 24-bed medical surgical wing and laid off six managers, including two in the nursing department. While Cape Cod Healthcare and Jordan

Hospital had the most widely publicized financial problems this year, other hospitals across the state are also struggling, and the situation is expected to get worse. Source:

 $\underline{\text{http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080804/NEWS/80804030}}_{8}$ 

30. August 3, Radio New Zealand International – (Hawaii) Health officials wait for TB information from Chuuk. The Hawaii state Health Department is moving to protect Hawaii from exposure to multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) after five people died from TB recently in Chuuk, in the Federated States of Micronesia. The Honolulu Star-Bulletin reports a task force is being formed to plan a coordinated response to the multidrug-resistant tuberculosis cases. The Health Director says there is concern because travel to Hawaii from Micronesia is pretty much open door. A team from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sent to Chuuk has finished an investigation. The chief of the Health Department's Tuberculosis Control Branch says the TB cases in Chuuk are resistant to Isoniazid and rifampin, two major drugs used to treat active TB. Hawaii has one of the highest TB rates in the U.S. with 115 active cases reported in 2006.

Source: http://www.rnzi.com/pages/news.php?op=read&id=41258

- 31. August 3, Associated Press (National) Lax oversight risks millions of Medicare **dollars.** The government is putting millions of Medicare dollars at risk by authorizing fictitious sellers of wheelchairs, prosthetics, and other medical supplies to submit reimbursement claims with only limited review, congressional investigators say. The study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) obtained by The Associated Press sought to follow up on oversight gaps that have plagued the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) since at least 2005. Roughly \$1 billion of the \$10 billion in annual Medicare payments the government makes for medical equipment are later deemed improper. The investigation found that CMS approved two companies in the past year for Medicare billing privileges that the GAO had set up as sham businesses. These fictitious suppliers, based in Maryland and Virginia, won privileges even though GAO investigators deliberately provided the government with sketchy information and false documents that offered little assurances the companies were legitimate. In response to the findings, the center agreed there were problems with its enrollment procedures. The agency said it recently put in place new standards that require medical suppliers to be certified. The goal is to help ensure medical suppliers meet quality standards before they receive Medicare billing privileges. They said the government's approval of their two sham companies was alarming because once a supplier attains Medicare billing privileges it easily can get a doctor's ID code fraudulently and begin submitting claims. Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jaD627V u hm4koV2o-2DYuICCDgD92B3OH00
- 32. August 2, Reuters (National) More than 56,000 in U.S. infected with AIDS each year. New estimates show that least 56,000 people become infected with the AIDS virus every year in the United States 40 percent more than previous calculations, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Saturday. The CDC stressed

that actual infection rates have not risen but said better methods of measuring newly diagnosed infections and extrapolating these to the general population led to the higher estimates. "CDC's first estimates from this system reveal that the HIV epidemic is – and has been – worse than previously known. Results indicate that approximately 56,300 new HIV infections occurred in the United States in 2006," the CDC said in a statement. The CDC said the epidemic has been stable since the late 1990s, "though the number of new HIV infections remains unacceptably high."

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSN0241418020080802?sp=true

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### **Government Facilities Sector**

33. August 4, KTVU 2 San Francisco – (California) UC firebombing called attempted **murder.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating two firebombings targeting University of California (UC), Santa Cruz, scientists as the latest in an outbreak of attacks against biomedical researchers who experiment on animals. A firebomb lit on the porch of a biologist early Saturday forced him and his family, including two small children, to flee out a second story window as the house filled with smoke, Santa Cruz police said. "We feel the attack was an attempted homicide," said the Santa Cruz police captain. Also Saturday morning, a firebomb destroyed a car belonging to a researcher parked at a home on campus. Authorities were treating the attacks as "domestic terrorism." The attacks came four days after police obtained threatening animal rights pamphlets left at a Santa Cruz coffeehouse containing the names and home addresses of UC Santa Cruz scientists. In recent years, three UCLA researchers who use non-human primates have been targeted with firebombs, though two failed to ignite. Animal rights groups claimed responsibility for all three attacks. More recently, masked protesters targeting UC Berkeley have scrawled graffiti and broken windows at scientists' homes.

Source: http://www.ktvu.com/news/17079888/detail.html

34. August 3, Associated Press – (National) Is another Bruce Ivins lurking in a biolab? Biodefense research facilities have expanded so quickly since the anthrax attacks in 2001 that the government cannot keep close tabs on the sites or their thousands of scientists. Security procedures are designed more to prevent accidents than to deal with security-cleared scientists who control their own lab. Background checks for people handling such germs and toxins are unlikely to ferret out workers with homicidal tendencies or extreme political views. Nearly everyone cleared to work in a lab with the most dangerous substances has access to potential biological weapons. Under federal law, scientists and others are restricted from working on vaccines and treatments for biological agents if they are: under indictment for, or convicted of, a felony; a fugitive; a drug user; an illegal immigrant; were judged mentally defective or committed to a mental institution; came from a country that supported international terrorism; or were discharged dishonorably from the U.S. military. The Government Accountability Office reported last fall that no federal agency is responsible for determining the risks associated with the proliferation of labs. "Though several agencies have a need to know, no one agency knows the number and location of these labs in the United States,"

according to the investigative arm of Congress. Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25999741/

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### **Emergency Services Sector**

- 35. August 4, Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star (Virginia) Only a drill. Virginia National Guard members prepared for the aftermath of a tornado at the University of Mary Washington campus in Fredericksburg Sunday morning. Soldiers practiced crowd control as almost 20 "role-players" stormed onto the parking deck and rushed towards two guards in the far corner. Soldiers were outnumbered and sprayed with Silly String and water until fellow guardsmen came to help them. When one role-player took a baton and tried to jump a metal fence, an officer called a halt to it all. Later, leaders gathered to evaluate the drill that included 150 soldiers from the 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, six members of the Virginia Defense Force, and four campus police. Most considered it successful, although several suggested ways to improve communication between companies. Others stressed the need to share information with a crowd instead of simply taking a hard line. National Guardsmen train annually on how to handle civil disturbances because that is still a main part of their mission. In recent years, they have been tasked with more serious matters, such as being deployed to a war zone.

  Source: http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2008/082008/08042008/399970
- 36. August 4, Wall Street Journal (National) Bioterrorism's threat persists. New York City is at the forefront of confronting the bioterror threat, with one of the most advanced detection and response systems in the country. The federal government has spent nearly \$50 billion on programs to fight bioterrorism since 2001. Still, experience in New York City and elsewhere underscores the enduring difficulty of contending with this type of terror attack. Experts in the field say that the nation's ability to detect biological weapons is still inadequate in most locales, as is its ability to distribute drugs to the population once the lethal agent is identified. Hospitals warn that the volume of casualties from an effective attack could simply overwhelm facilities. "We've made very little progress in [any] of those very big areas," says the director of the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is constructing a center that will merge biothreat information from federal agencies and eventually connect it with localities. DHS has also been building its BioWatch system, which deploys equipment to sniff out key deadly pathogens from the air. The Government Accountability Office said in congressional testimony that it is not clear that the new center will be able to perform as expected when it is launched next month and that it had found that the BioWatch system requires up to 34 hours to detect and confirm a pathogen. While the department is trying to develop an interim solution to expedite detection, a faster system isn't scheduled for completion until 2010.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121781124869708811.html?mod=googlenews\_wsj

37. August 3, Baltimore Sun – (Maryland) Drill teaches terror lessons. A three-hour

exercise dubbed "Operation Purple Haze" and held at Baltimore's M & T Bank Stadium gave 300 local first-response providers an opportunity to prepare for a terrorist attack involving a simulated nuclear weapon. Organizers stressed that the exercise was an attempt to be proactive and not in response to any specific terrorist threat. Similar scenarios have been staged at the Ravens' stadium for years, officials said, but yesterday's event, which included 500 volunteers posing as game fans, was the largest yet. This year Baltimore received \$11.5 million in federal funding from the Urban Area Security Initiative, according to the mayor's office. Last year the city received \$11.8 million. The money helps to pay for equipment and precautionary drills such as the one held yesterday. The drill allowed for first-responders at the city, state, and federal-level to join with the mayor's office, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Maryland Stadium Authority. The mock event was as true to real life as possible. Five hundred volunteers were recruited to act as fans at a game affected by a nuclear attack. They were assigned information cards that listed their injuries from the explosion. The cards even contained vital statistic such as blood pressure, which medical workers used to treat the injured on site.

Source: <a href="http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore\_city/bal-md.security03aug03,0,6964452.story">http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore\_city/bal-md.security03aug03,0,6964452.story</a>

38. August 3, Homeland Security Today – (National) A national strategy for **interoperability.** Last Thursday the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) addressed the latest step in the challenge of aligning the statewide communication interoperability plans for all 56 states and territories previously mandated by DHS, which call for individual states to identify near- and long-term initiatives for improving communications interoperability, with a new three-year strategy to coordinate and monitor all those efforts to be called National Emergency Communications Plan. The plan is a response to The Homeland Security Act of 2002, which as amended in 2006, mandated the creation of an overarching strategy to address emergency communications shortfalls. To measure progress toward this vision, DHS lays out a three-part timetable. The first goal is to have 90 percent of all high-risk urban areas designated within the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) able by 2010 to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies. The second stage goal is having 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies by 2011. A final goal of the plan is to have 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within three hours, in the event of a significant incident as outlined in national planning scenarios by 2013. Source:

http://hstoday.us/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=4551&Itemid=152

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## **Information Technology**

39. *August 4*, *Broadband Finder* – (National) **Olympics 'will increase malware threat'.** The Olympics 'will increase malware threat' Spamming, phishing, and malware activity

rises around the time of large sporting events like the Olympics or the Super Bowl, it has been claimed. Symantec has warned household and business broadband users to be vigilant in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics, which starts this month. Many phishing attacks can hide behind what appears to be innocuous Olympic-themed messages. Last month, a large amount of fraudulent spam was sent to broadband users that claimed to originate from the Beijing Olympic Committee, telling account holders they had won a prize. Symantec's consumer marketing director said: "Hackers and spammers will see it as a massive opportunity to compromise the unwary."

Source: <a href="http://www.broadband-finder.co.uk/news/internet-security/olympics-will-increase-malware-threat\_18713800.html">http://www.broadband-finder.co.uk/news/internet-security/olympics-will-increase-malware-threat\_18713800.html</a>

40. August 4, IDG News Service – (National) IE 6 more vulnerable to unpatched Microsoft flaw, Symantec says. A vulnerability in as-yet unpatched Microsoft software poses a more severe threat to Internet Explorer (IE) 6 users than those using a newer version of the browser, security vendor Symantec has warned. The flaw in Microsoft's Access database software came to light just as Microsoft issued its patches for the month on July 8. The problem is within the Snapshot Viewer ActiveX control, which allows someone to see an Access report without launching the software. Attackers are actively exploiting the vulnerability by either creating Web pages or hacking existing Web pages to host the attack. The hackers lure people to the pages through spam or an instant message. IE 7 will prompt users before downloading a particular ActiveX control for the first time. But IE 6 will automatically download the control since it is digitally signed by Microsoft, Symantec said in its advisory. Once the ActiveX control is downloaded, the flaw can allow an attacker to take over a PC. Symantec advises administrators to set three "kill bits" for the ActiveX control, a Microsoft workaround for preventing an ActiveX control from running in Internet Explorer. Microsoft has so far not said when it plans to release a fix. The company's next round of patches is scheduled to be released Aug. 12.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9111518&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\_top

#### **Internet Alert Dashboard**

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at <a href="mailto:soc@us-cert.gov">soc@us-cert.gov</a> or visit their Website: <a href="http://www.us-cert.gov">http://www.us-cert.gov</a>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <a href="https://www.it-isac.org/">https://www.it-isac.org/</a>.

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## **Communications Sector**

41. August 3, Whittier Daily News – (California) Areas being wired with newest fiberoptic lines. Verizon crews are installing new fiber-optic cable lines in California that
will allow the telephone company to offer cable television in competition with existing
franchises. In Whittier crews will be out in the central part of the city, beginning in

about two weeks, installing the new lines in the public rights of way as well as occasionally going into backyards. By the end of August or early September, crews are expected to be in numerous cities in the Whittier and San Gabriel Valley areas, ranging from Azusa to Covina to La Mirada to Pico Rivera. While there is now satellite television offered, Verizon through this system will be a direct competitor with Charter Communications and Time Warner. Verizon is installing the new fiber optic lines where it now has telephone service - about 22 percent of California - although nearly all of the Whittier area is included. Nationally, the company plans to spend more than \$18billion, said a Verizon spokesman. In California, it will spend several hundred million dollars, he said.

Source: http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci\_10089121

42. August 2, Washington Post – (National) FCC tries to avert threatened satellite cutoff. The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a last-minute appeal to SES Americom, a satellite telecommunications company, yesterday, urging it to continue providing Internet and other satellite-based services to a subscriber despite a contract dispute. SES Americom had threatened to shut off satellite service to OnSat Network Communications, saying it is owed more than \$4 million. Their dispute involves the delivery of Internet services to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. But the FCC Chairman noted in a letter to SES Americom's chief operating officer that such an action would also cut off "significant public safety services to first responders across the country," affecting "at least 25 public safety entities in 13 states." SES Americom, based in Princeton, New Jersey, had announced it would switch off the satellite service Friday. The Navajo tribe, which numbers about 250,000, lost free Internet in its libraries and community centers in April leaving many people on the vast reservation miles from Internet access. OnSat, an Internet service provider, says that an arm of the FCC, Universal Service Administrative Co., owes it \$2.1 million in federal funding.

Source: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-</a>

dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080103283.html

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### **Commercial Facilities Sector**

43. August 4, Independent Television News – (International) Grenade attack ahead of Olympics. Suspected terrorists are to blame for a grenade attack in China that has killed 16 people four days before the start of the Beijing Olympics, police have said. Two men reportedly used a dumper truck to ram their way into the border patrol armed police headquarters in Kashgar in the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang region and then threw two hand grenades. All of the victims were all border officials. The state news agency said: "The two attackers got off the lorry after the vehicle veered to hit on a roadside wire pole. They threw two grenades to the barracks, causing explosion. They also hacked the policemen with knives." Local people there have been a focus of increased security in the build-up to the Games because of their resentment of Chinese control in the region. Police have reportedly identified five terrorist groups in the region that are allegedly plotting to sabotage the Games. China's military officer in charge of Olympics security

said before the blast that "East Turkestan terrorist groups" were the biggest threat to Games security. The Human Rights Watch said: "This is the most serious incident recorded in years. Ahead of the Olympics, it is a very powerful symbolic attack because security in Xinjiang is at an all-time high."

Source: <a href="http://www.itv.com/News/Articles/China-attack-leaves-16-police-dead-260386867.html">http://www.itv.com/News/Articles/China-attack-leaves-16-police-dead-260386867.html</a>

44. August 2, News Tribune – (Washington) Streets closed as bomb squad removes apparent explosive. Police removed an apparent pipe bomb from a Fife apartment deck Friday evening, briefly closing local streets. A police spokesman said the Pierce County bomb squad removed the explosive. Police responded to the complex after employees at the state Department of Corrections reported seeing the device on a deck. The state employees were making a routine visit to a former inmate under community supervision. Police were keeping the man in custody late Friday and preparing to search the apartment for additional evidence, the spokesman said.

Source: http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/crime/story/431621.html

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### **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

45. August 4, Christian Science Monitor – (National) How national parks manage fire risk. Officials at the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park in California adopted "fire management" four decades ago. This strategy is in place in wilderness areas across the West despite constant revision after a catastrophic miscalculation in the late 1980s at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. The chief of the fire and aviation division with the National Park Service said the managed-fire approach is in place at parks ranging from the Everglades in Florida to the Crater Lake, Grand Teton, and Grand Canyon parks in the West. The U.S. Forest Service also permits fire management in some cases, although critics say it has been slower to adopt the approach than the park service. There are risks to allowing fires to burn. They can create a health hazard through smoke pollution. Across the National Park Service system, firefighters purposely burned nearly 29,000 acres in the 2007 fiscal year and let natural fires burn another 43,000 acres. Source: http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0804/p02s01-usgn.html

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### **Dams Sector**

46. August 3, Dallas Morning News – (Texas) Population grows around north Texas dams, increasing risks; state overwhelmed by inspections. A Dallas Morning News investigation found that suburban sprawl has encroached on hundreds of dams in Texas that were once in remote locations. Urbanization upstream from dams increases the amount of runoff after an extremely heavy rainfall. Some dams may not be able to handle the volume, and that may pose a greater risk to life and property in neighborhoods downstream. Texas has about 7,500 state-regulated dams; officials have identified 888 as "high hazard." But the state program responsible for inspecting dams is

understaffed and under-funded. And many dams classified decades ago as "low hazard" are now integrated into the suburban landscape. According to an analysis of state and federal dam data and Census figures, at least 554 of Texas' roughly 5,800 low-hazard dams are now in areas where the population has more than doubled since 1990. In addition, many of the dams in Texas classified as high hazard do not have specific emergency action plans. Such plans are based on a breach analysis that determines what would be affected by a dam failure. But people who would be affected by a breach cannot find out whether they are at risk, and local residents may not even know a small dam is nearby. Lake Cliff is a high-hazard dam. City officials say they do not have a specific emergency action plan for Lake Cliff and some of Dallas' other dams. Source:

 $\underline{http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texassouthwest/stories/DN-\underline{dams\_03pro.ART.State.Edition2.4d74b4c.html}$ 

47. August 1, WWL 4 New Orleans – (Louisiana) Corps finds weak spot in levee wall. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has an emergency plan to protect nearly 2,000 feet of Industrial Canal flood wall it says needs serious reinforcement near the Gentilly Woods neighborhood. The Corps says the weak spot stretches for about 1,800 feet along the flood wall on the west side of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, and that it was discovered while analyzing the I-Wall. The Corps will begin stacking Hescoe baskets in the next two weeks. The steel sheet pilings will require contract work and will take a couple of months to complete.

Source: http://www.wwltv.com/topstories/stories/wwl080108mllevee.678f170.html

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